

Media and film

Essentials

Taught programmes

MA degrees

Creative Media Practice
Digital Documentary
Digital Media
Film Studies: Global Film Cultures
Media and Cultural Studies

Postgraduate diploma

Media and Cultural Studies

Research programmes

MPhil, PhD Creative and Critical Practice
MPhil, PhD Film Studies
MPhil, PhD Media and Cultural Studies

Related programmes

MA in Gender and Media (p98)
MA in Journalism and Documentary Practice (p113)
MA in Journalism and Media Studies (p114)
MA and Postgraduate Diploma in Multimedia Journalism (p114)
MPhil, PhD in Gender Studies (Humanities) (p98)

Admissions requirements

For information on overseas qualifications that meet the admissions requirements, refer to pages 156-157

MA in Creative Media Practice; MA in Digital Documentary; MA in Digital Media

A first- or upper second-class undergraduate honours degree in an appropriate discipline. We also welcome applicants who do not have this academic qualification who are able to demonstrate in their application that they have relevant professional/creative skills and experience

MA and Postgraduate Diploma in Media and Cultural Studies; MA in Film Studies: Global Film Cultures

A first- or upper second-class undergraduate honours degree in media, film or another discipline in the humanities or social sciences. We also welcome applications from those with relevant professional experience

Compulsory pre-sessional course

Students taking the MA in Creative Media Practice, the MA in Digital Documentary or the MA in Digital Media will be required to attend a compulsory practical pre-sessional course. The fee for this pre-sessional course is included in the tuition fee. The pre-sessional course aims to ensure you are familiar with the equipment and facilities you will be using throughout your studies before you start the programme

MPhil and PhD

Normally a Masters degree in a subject relevant to your chosen area of research

English language requirements

IELTS 6.5, with not less than 6.5 in Writing and 6.0 in the other sections. Internet TOEFL with 92 overall, with 21 in Listening, 22 in Reading, 24 in Speaking and 25 in Writing. For more information and alternative English language requirements, refer to page 156

Pre-Masters for non-EU students

If your qualifications (including English language) do not yet meet our entry requirements for admission directly to any of our taught programmes listed on the left, we offer a Pre-Masters entry route. For more information, refer to page 31

Fees

Refer to pages 158-159 for information on fees

Further information

Taught programmes

School of Media, Film and Music
University of Sussex, Falmer,
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Research programmes

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www.sussex.ac.uk/mfm

The Duke of York's Picturehouse in Brighton is one of the oldest cinemas in Britain



The Department of Media and Film at Sussex:

- offers exceptional opportunities for graduate study, with innovative taught MA programmes and a range of supervision for MPhil and PhD research in theory and practice
- has a thriving research culture in media theory and practice, with around 50 research students working alongside faculty each year
- is rated joint 8th in the UK for research in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). 100 percent of our research was rated as recognised internationally
- is ranked in the top 10 places to study in the UK in *The Complete University Guide 2011-12* and in *The Guardian University Guide 2012*, and 12th in *The Times Good University Guide 2012*
- offers opportunities to make practical creative projects alongside conceptual and theoretical study
- has dedicated state-of-the-art digital production facilities and links to the thriving creative and media scene in Brighton, and
- is home to the Sussex Centre for Cultural Studies and the innovative Centre for Material Digital Culture.

Taught programmes

MA in Creative Media Practice

1 year full time/2 years part time

This MA encourages new thinking and creativity about narratives across a broad spectrum of creative media. Led by award-winning media artists as well as critical theorists, this programme offers you the opportunity to explore critically informed creative practice across digital media, photography and a range of aural and visual forms. Relationships between media practices and theories are investigated through a combination of lectures, seminars and hands-on workshops. Your cross-disciplinary practice is supported by faculty and peers working in related media practices, as well as guest masterclasses taught by leading artists and industry professionals.

This MA begins with an overview of media forms and approaches. You work together with other students to explore uses of narrative in sound, image, and digital and physical spaces. You then have the chance to develop your own personal project through workshops aimed at helping you structure your work, identify your audience, budget, plan and finally create a professional completed piece in the media of your choice.

Additional admissions requirements

Due to the creative nature of this programme, the selection process requires applicants to submit a small portfolio containing two or more pieces of practical media-based work submitted either on a single CD/DVD or uploaded to a personal website with a URL supplied to the University. The portfolio will be used to select successful applicants. If you do not have existing practical experience, one of our other programmes might be better suited to you.

Career opportunities

This MA provides an opportunity for students from diverse backgrounds to take advantage of Sussex's unique interdisciplinary history and practices. Some of our graduates pursue careers as independent artists, producers or directors through the support of local organisations such

as the Brighton Festival, Lighthouse, South East Dance, Flash on the Beach, etc. Other graduates have gone on to work with digital media, television, advertising and video game productions in Brighton and London.

Programme structure

Autumn term: you take the core course Expanded Media Practice, involving practical work in various media alongside the study of narrative and other structures. In addition, you choose one option from a list that may include Documenting the Real • Gender and Representation • Independent Project I • Media Theory and Research I • New Developments in Digital Media • Theory and Practice of Interactive Media.

Spring term: you take the core course Research and Development for Creative Practice and one option from a list that may include Curating Film Culture • Independent Project II • Media Audiences • Media Technology and Everyday Life • Media Theory and Research II • Mobile and Locative Theory and Practice • Queering Popular Culture • Latin American Cinema • Musical Multimedia • Rethinking European Cinema • Science, Technology and Culture • Space and Representation • Video Documentary in Contemporary History.

You may substitute one course from another arts and humanities programme with the approval of the programme convenor and the course tutor.

Summer term: with the guidance of your supervisor you complete a major work in your chosen media, along with a critical essay.

Assessment

Assessment is by practical media work as well as a process workbook, and critique. The final assessment is a major media work plus an essay.

MA in Digital Documentary 1 year full time/2 years part time

This MA offers you the chance to develop your film-making and critical skills in a supportive and stimulating environment. It is led by award-winning producers and taught by highly experienced practitioners with wide expertise in creating moving images.

Through a series of projects and exercises you learn to develop, pitch, research, script, budget, shoot and edit, with 24-hour access to the School's broadcast-standard equipment including HD cameras and a range of post-production facilities.

You develop a portfolio of films and master all the different aspects of producing a good documentary – conceptual, organisational, technical and industrial. You take seminars exploring key issues in contemporary and historical examples of the genre alongside your practical workshops. Your final 20-minute film allows you to develop your own voice by conceiving and realising a personal project.

The programme is unique in offering you the chance not only to make films for the single screen but also to create work across other platforms and in other media of your choice, such as the web, photography and mobile media. Further options allow you to pursue your specific interests through a broader study of media theory and research methods.

The School benefits from strong connections with local and national media companies and visiting specialists in key areas of production regularly provide input into this programme.



Coursework from the MA in Digital Documentary: A Dadgarnia's *Third Witness*, 2009

Career opportunities

An internship is available and optional placements may be arranged with local employers. This MA prepares you for professional work in the media and related industries, as well as giving you a grounding in theories of the genre for those interested in pursuing a PhD.

Our graduates have gone on to pursue careers in independent film-making, television production and research, marketing, communications, teaching and academic research. Employers of our graduates include Century Films, Ricochet, Back2Back Productions, Brighton.tv, EDF Energy, BP, La7 and Vodafone.

Programme structure

Each term involves making practical documentary projects alongside conceptual and theoretical study.

Autumn term: you take the core course Documenting the Real, involving practical work in documentary production alongside the study of the history and theory of documentary. In addition you choose one option from a list that may include Cinema: Histories, Institutions and Technologies • Expanded Media Forms • Film Studies: Theories and Methods • Gender and Representation • Media, Technology and Everyday Life • Media Theory and Research I • Promotional Culture • Theory and Practice of Interactive Media (a course combining practical workshops and theoretical seminars).

Spring term: you take the core course Research and Project Development for Documentary Practice, and one option from a list that may include Curating Film Culture • Feminism and Film • Global Cinemas • Media Audiences • Media Theory and Research II • Mobile and Locative Theory and Practice • Musical Multimedia • Latin American Cinema • Photography: Documentary, Landscape, Politics • Queering Popular Culture • Video Documentary in Contemporary History.

You may substitute one course from another arts and humanities programme with the approval of the programme convenor and the course tutor.

Summer term: with guidance from your supervisor, you complete a major documentary project of up to 20 minutes on a subject of your choosing, plus an accompanying critical essay.

If you prefer, you may undertake an 18,000-word supervised dissertation on a topic in realism and digital documentary.

Assessment

Assessment is by practical video/media work and production documentation and critique. The final assessment is a major documentary project plus essay, or a dissertation (refer to above).

To view examples of previous years' work, visit <http://vimeo.com/channels/141951>

MA in Digital Media 1 year full time/2 years part time

This MA is associated with the Centre for Material Digital Culture (www.sussex.ac.uk/rcmdc).

This programme offers you an exciting opportunity to combine theoretical and practical work in a degree designed to give you an excellent working knowledge of the field of new media. This MA locates new media within the theoretical contexts of media and cultural studies, while also giving you hands-on experience in designing and developing new media products using industry-standard equipment and authoring tools. Teaching is through lectures, seminars and hands-on workshops in small groups. Your longer summer project may be theoretical, practical or based on a work placement.

This MA is designed to offer advanced study of new media, aimed at graduates who wish to advance their study, at professionals who wish to consider developments in the field of digital media/new media and, while it is not a vocational degree, it will also be of interest to those seeking to enter new media industries.

Career opportunities

Our graduates have gone on to pursue careers in journalism, PR, marketing, web design, education and consultancy. Students have also gone on to further study or to work in academia. Employers of our graduates include the BBC, Cogapp, Digital Media Lab at Universidad Diego Portales, Makemedia, and Vertical Slice.

Programme structure

Autumn term: you take the core courses Interactive Media Practice • Interactive Media Theory • Media Theory and Research I. Exceptionally, and with the approval of the programme convenor, students with an undergraduate degree in media theory may opt not to take Media Theory and Research I, choosing instead from options that may include Cinema: Histories, Institutions and Technologies • Gender and Representation • Inside Hollywood • Promotional Culture.

Spring term: you take the core course New Developments in Digital Media. In addition you choose one option from a list that may include Culture, Emotion and Representation • Curating Film Culture • Feminism and Film • Media Audiences • Media Histories and Political Change • Media, Technology and Everyday Life • Mobile and Locative Theory and Practice • Musical Multimedia • Queering Popular Culture • Rethinking European Cinema • Science, Technology and Culture • Video Documentary in Contemporary History.

Summer term: you undertake supervised work on a 18,000-word dissertation, or produce a practical project and accompanying 10,000-word critical report, or undertake a work placement and produce a report.

Assessment

Assessment is by term papers and project work and by an 18,000-word dissertation or multimedia project and report.

MA in Film Studies: Global Film Cultures 1 year full time/2 years part time

This MA provides an opportunity to explore in depth one of the most fascinating of contemporary media. Led by a team of distinguished film studies researchers, the programme offers a higher-level introduction to the discipline's key theoretical approaches and also presents opportunities for developing expertise in key areas such as global cinema cultures; film, gender and sexuality; and film, history and popular culture.

Teaching is through seminars, screenings and tutorials, with the degree culminating in the writing of a supervised dissertation project of your choice. This is not a practice-based degree (although it may be possible to take practice options) but an MA that investigates a range of critical, theoretical and historical approaches to the medium.

This MA is designed both for students who have already studied film at undergraduate level and for students with degrees in other humanities or social science subjects who would like to learn more about film, film cultures and film studies. Besides encouraging in-depth subject knowledge, this programme also provides an enrichment of transferable skills employers find attractive, such as creative thinking, high-level research expertise, analytical and communication skills, and organisational, time-management and group-work abilities.

Career opportunities

Our graduates have gone on to pursue careers in the media industries, secondary education, information services, and sales and marketing. Some have gone on to further study.

Programme structure

Autumn term: you take the core courses Film Studies: Theories and Methods • Global Cinemas.

Spring term: you choose two from a list of options that may include Approaches to Film Noir • Curating Film Culture • Feminism and Film • Global Cinema • Inside Hollywood • Latin American Cinema • Rethinking European Cinema • The Cinematic Body.

With the programme convenor's approval, you may also substitute one of the above options for an option from related MA programmes, such as those offered by English (refer to pages 91-94) or Media and Cultural Studies (right).

Summer term and vacation: you undertake supervised work on the MA dissertation, including the development of the proposal, methodology and critical literature to be used, and have regular discussion about your progress with your dissertation supervisor.

Assessment

All courses are normally assessed by 5,000-word term papers. You are also required to submit a dissertation of 18,000 words.

MA in Media and Cultural Studies 1 year full time/2 years part time

This broad-based MA offers you an exciting opportunity to address important and challenging questions about forms of communication and culture in contemporary globalised society. Via lectures and small-group seminars taught by active researchers in a highly rated department, the core courses provide a comprehensive engagement with key thinkers, traditions and debates in media and cultural studies, bridging both arts and the social sciences. They equip you with the critical and methodological skills to research a wide range of media – print and broadcast media, the film and music industries, the internet and other social media.

You study the media as institutions, texts and systems of representation and communication, exploring their role in the exercise of political, social and cultural power in a variety of contexts. You can choose from a wide range of options, allowing you the flexibility to define the shape of your degree, and you are encouraged and trained to set your own research agenda, culminating in your dissertation.

This MA is aimed both at media and cultural studies graduates who wish to advance their study and those with a relevant undergraduate degree in the humanities or social sciences who wish to enter the field for the first time.

In addition to gaining specialist knowledge, you develop a rich portfolio of skills in critical and textual analysis, creative thinking and high-level research planning and methods. You work independently and in groups, presenting your work effectively and professionally. These skills, together with the cultural knowledge and critical agility that you develop, prepare you for a successful career, whether in the media industries or other professions.

Career opportunities

Our graduates have gone on to pursue careers in the media and cultural industries, publishing, research, teaching, journalism, PR, and development work, and some have gone on to further study.

Programme structure

The MA is structured either around a two-term core course plus one option in each of the first two terms or, for graduates in media and cultural studies, there is the alternative of taking two options per term. In the summer term, you undertake a supervised research-led dissertation on a topic of your choice.

The two-term core course Media Theory and Research offers an opportunity to study thematic, conceptual, methodological and institutional issues. At its centre is a concern with communication as a process: with the production, consumption and regulation of social and cultural definitions, meanings and values in modern society and in everyday life. Although it concentrates on contemporary media and culture, its concerns are also historical and extend to wider social and political processes.

In the autumn and spring terms, you take *either* the core course and one option, *or* two options, which may include Approaches to Film Noir • Cinema: Histories, Institutions and Technologies • Culture, Experience, History • Curating Film Culture • Emotion, Representation and Culture • Feminism and Film • Gender and Representation • Global Cinema • Inside Hollywood • Latin American Cinema • Media Audiences • Media Histories and

Political Change • Media, Technology and Everyday Life • Promotional Culture • Queering Popular Culture • Rethinking European Cinema • Science, Technology, Culture • The Cinematic Body.

Assessment

All courses are assessed by 5,000-word term papers. You are also required to submit a dissertation of 18,000 words.

Postgraduate Diploma in Media and Cultural Studies 1 year full time/2 years part time

The Postgraduate Diploma is a taught-only programme, comprising four courses from the MA of the same name, which are completed by the end of the spring term (or part time, over two years, one course per term). It is particularly suitable for those who wish to enhance their professional development but who do not currently wish to pursue the research element of the MA qualification.

Research programmes

Faculty have expertise in the following areas: digital art, documentary, working-class cultures, globalisation, new media technologies, media audiences, popular culture, Hollywood cinema, sound cultures and radio, media and the public sphere, lesbian and gay studies, feminism, advertising and consumption, identity and cultural space, and representation. We also offer supervision across a range of critical and creative practice, supported by state-of-the-art facilities. Students interested in pursuing research in these fields are particularly encouraged to apply.

Coursework

All new research students will be required to participate in a programme of research training courses and to take other courses that may be recommended by the supervisor of their research (exemption from research training courses can be granted to those who have already taken such courses at postgraduate level). The Department offers a range of support for research training, including research seminar presentation days, 'away days' support for new skills, and the Research in Progress seminar series.

For information on MPhil and PhD study, refer to Routes to postgraduate study at Sussex on pages 14-15.

Recent and current PhD thesis titles

Aesthetics and identity in landscape photography of the South Downs

Articulating dissent from the margins to the mainstream: the communicative strategies of protest coalitions

Community, belonging and 'Britishness' in contemporary television comedy

European identity and the management of public information

The political economy of open source and free culture

The queer punk films of Bruce LaBruce

Representation, subcultures and memory: rethinking the 1950s in British popular culture

The role of brands in the contemporary culture of children

Silver screen: the ageing female body in women's films

Career opportunities

Our graduates have gone on to pursue careers in teaching, production research, broadcasting, and project and cultural management. Employers of our graduates include Scenestealer Interactive Video Solutions, Viasat Broadcasting, Autumn Publishing and Ofcom.

Faculty research interests

Our internationally respected research explores questions around the materialities, technologies and politics of cultural forms and formations. Researchers work on, across and through a range of media: film, television, radio, photography, and 'new' and interactive forms.

They specialise within three interlocking themes: media technology, form and experience; cultural histories/cultural politics; and the politics of representation.

Media technology, form and experience

The relationships between technology, form and experience are explored through studies of techno-cultural innovation, sense perception, and embodied experience. A key aspect, which builds on expertise in the Department, is the development of new critical frameworks for the exploration of new media forms and practices as they emerge in everyday life.

Cultural histories/cultural politics Research is focused on histories of the public sphere and the relationships between cultures, technological change and social and political change. It also encompasses an analysis of the construction of national identities and borders, and their institutionalised histories and marginalised others.

The politics of representation The Department of Media and Film has long been a centre of excellence for research on gender, sexuality and representation. We continue to build on this through a concern with the images and narratives of popular culture, and the ways in which these construct identities and play on pleasures, fears, and desires.

Individual research interests are briefly described below. For more detailed information, visit www.sussex.ac.uk/mfm

Thomas Austin Audiences for popular film, screen documentary, and Hollywood cinema.

Caroline Bassett New media technologies, most recently working on narrative and new media. Published widely on new media and gender.

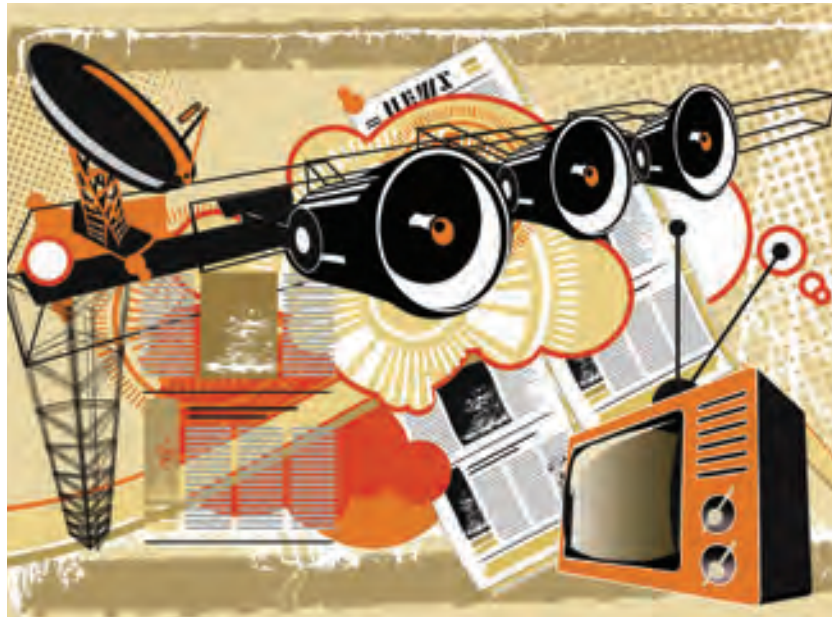
Michael Bull Works extensively on the nature of auditory experience. Specialises in the work of The Frankfurt School.

Wilma de Jong Researcher, scriptwriter, director and producer. Media and activism, independent production, documentary and news. Co-editor of *Rethinking the Documentary: A Documentary Reader* (2008).

Andrew Duff Production tutor. Specialises in exploring reactive and interactive multimedia, experimental digital and analogue audio, and old and new media.

Melanie Friend Representations of conflict and trauma, asylum detention in the UK, and post-communism in Bulgaria. A practising photographer.

Rosalind Galt European film histories, world cinema since 1945, aesthetics, critical theory, gender and sexuality.



Lee Gooding Senior production tutor. Has produced a range of programmes for a number of organisations. Research interests in post-war European cinema and digital editing.

Adrian Goycoolea Film-maker whose work addresses issues of location and identity, exploring the intersections of personal memory with social and political histories.

Catherine Grant Film authorship, intertextuality and film cultural curation in relation to a range of world cinemas.

Ben Highmore The culture of daily life. Author of *A Passion for Cultural Studies* (2009); *Ordinary Lives* (2009).

Dee Kilkelly Production tutor. Co-runs APT new media, a collective that has been responsible for art events, installations and club nights in and around Brighton.

Mary Agnes Krell Media artist whose work spans performance, digital media and narrative practices. Created large-scale interactive projects with Forced Entertainment, the Lee Miller Archive and the BBC in recent years.

Frank Krutnik Film noir, comedy, stardom and film, popular culture and politics.

Kate Lacey Gender, media and the public sphere. Has published widely on radio history and theory. Current work focuses on listening publics.

Michael Lawrence World cinemas, Indian cinema, screen performance, child and non-professional actors, animals in film. Author of *Sabu* (forthcoming).

Andy Medhurst Post-war British popular culture; media representations of masculinity and homosexuality. Writes frequently for *Sight and Sound* and *The Wire*.

Sharif Mowlabocus Digital cultures, gender, sexuality and representation. Author of *Gaydar Culture* (2010).

Professor Sally R Munt Queer studies, cultural studies, identity and emotion. Co-author of *Queer Spiritual Spaces: Sexuality and Sacred Places* (2010).

An Nguyen Refer to the Journalism subject entry on page 114.

Kate O'Riordan Cultural studies of science and technology. Author of *Human Cloning and the Media: from Science Fiction to Science Practice* (2008); *The Genome Incorporated* (2010).

Niall Richardson Representations of gender, sexuality and the body in film and popular culture. Author of *The Queer Cinema of Derek Jarman* (2009) and *Transgressive Bodies* (2010).

Martin Spinelli Produces award-winning literary and experimental radio projects. Interests include contemporary radio art and sound poetry, Italian Futurism, and cultural studies.

Dolores Tierney US and Latin American film-making. Mexican exploitation and contemporary Spanish horror film.

Professor Sue Thornham Feminism, film and cultural theory.

Lizzie Thynne Film-maker who has exhibited widely in broadcast, festival and gallery contexts. Interests include auto/biography, surrealism, and documentary practices.

Janice Winship Published on women's magazines, advertising and consumption in the 20th century. Currently writing about Marks and Spencer in British national culture.

Kirk Woolford Media artist and software developer who engages in practice-led research to explore concepts and experiences that defy textual representation.